

include Scotland in the known range of this moth. Although there is a possibility that these captures were of immigrants, P. Wormall (*in litt*) noted a specimen in the Oban area on 30.v.1971, and the Scottish Insect Record Index (see *Ent. Rec.* 99:37) gives a further 12 recorded localities. C. C. PENNY, 109 Waveney Drive, Chelmsford, Essex.

PTEROPHORUS GALACTODACTYLA D. & S. (LEP.: PTEROPHORIDAE) IN LINCOLNSHIRE — during June 1986, whilst collecting at Saltfeelby, Lincolnshire, in the company of C. Hart and R. McCormick, a number of larvae of *galactodactyla* were found feeding on burdock (*Arctium lappa*). Beirne, in *British Pyralid and Plume Moths* states “. . . . confined to England and Wales from Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Glamorgan southwards.” This appears to be a new County record, and represents a northerly extension of the known range of this insect. C. C. PENNEY, 109 Waveney Drive, Chelmsford, Essex.

A NOTE ON REARING MYTHIMNA ALBIPUNCTA D. & S. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE WHITE POINT) — On the fourth of October 1986 I visited the tallows area of Dungeness as the weather conditions seemed favourable for migrants. I found myself in good company as Bernard Skinner, Michael Chalmers-Hunt and David Wilson were already in residence.

Migrants were scarce, however, in 42 species recorded only *Agrotis ipsilon* and *albipuncta* were thought likely to be migrants and, remarkably, *gamma* did not appear. David ended up with the *albipuncta* and as it was a female he promised to try and obtain some eggs and pass a few on to me.

As in all the best stories I had to wait, but three or four weeks later, on the day of the BENHS exhibition, David kindly passed on to me five young larvae.

One died two days later but the others thrived, feeding well on cocksfoot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). The larvae were of different ages but by keeping the larger ones cool I managed to get all four to emerge as moths within two days of each other in early December. The larvae were reared in plastic boxes in a home made incubator held at 20-22°C. The larvae pupate readily in leaf mould, lying just under the surface. They turn from full-grown larvae to the pre-pupal shrunken condition in a very short time, sometimes only twelve hours, but when transferred to the pupating box they all managed to bury themselves and form a pupal chamber without problems. The larva stays like this for about four days, a relatively long time I think for such a moth.

The pupa has two distinguishing features, there is a single anal spike which is very like a short bristle about 1mm long. The pupa also has a hardened and darkened ‘nose’ area with a small raised keel. The pupa stage lasted for about three weeks.

Most of the moths emerged in the early morning as far as I could judge, I found one with limp wings at this time, and always the moths which had emerged were hardened off by the evening. In the second brood about 10% emerged in the early evening at around 6pm.

Both sexes are superficially similar but the males have a sooty black brush apparatus at the base of the underside of the abdomen which is always visible and makes sexing the moths very simple. The fates were smiling because the original four larvae produced two males and two females, and they were duly put in a muslin flight cage about eight inches on a side. The moths were allowed sugar water to feed on and were sprayed with water to increase the humidity to a level that I felt was appropriate. A small plant of *Dactylis* was introduced into the cage but it was not for two weeks that eggs were found. To my surprise these were exclusively tucked into the dead, dry leaves of the grass, as I had expected to find them amongst the green stalks. Copulation must be quick as no pairing was observed despite examining the box two or three times a day.

The eggs were white when first laid, but they soon change to pale yellowish-green and eventually they darken to the yellow colour which is shared by so many other species. The eggs do not darken further until they are about to hatch, this made me think that the eggs were infertile and it was with great rejoicing that the first small, looping larva appeared on 20th December. It seems better to keep the very small larvae at a lower temperature, say 16°C, as I lost a large number that were kept at 20°C. I found the young larvae rather fussy about their food. They like grass leaves which are mature, not old and yellowing, neither will they eat young, juicy basal leaves and sheaths. I found the small larvae hide, often communally, in the folded leaves and this made changing the youngsters a long process. COLIN HART, Fourpenny Cottage, Dungates Lane, Betchworth, Surrey.

EILEMA CANIOLA (HUBNER) AND CRYPHIA MURALIS (FORSTER) IN COUNTY WICKLOW — The note by David Brown (*Ent. Rec.* 99:45) recording the recent discovery of a specimen of *E. caniola* in south-west Ireland prompts me to belatedly report the capture of a female of this species on the cliffs at Bray Head, Co. Wicklow (Irish Grid Reference O 288156) on 25th August 1984. This appears to constitute the first record of the species from the east coast of Ireland during this century. Bray Head is 22km south of Howth, Co. Dublin, from where the species was first recorded from Ireland by Barratt in 1860, and where it is believed to have later become extinct (Baynes, E.S.A., 1964. *A revised catalogue of Irish macrolepidoptera.*).

A male *Cryphia muralis* (Forster) was captured on the same